

HID/NE
LUC

16 February 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Validity of Present Estimate on Hong Kong
SNIE 13-3-57: The Chinese Communist Threat to
Hong Kong, dated 19 November 1957

1. We have re-examined SNIE 13-3-57 and consider that there has been no change in intelligence that invalidates any of its principal conclusions.* Although the three-year period covered by that SNIE expires in November of this year, present intelligence indicates that, in the main, it could be extended beyond this period.

2. The Chinese Communists, will almost certainly continue to have the capability of seizing the Colony, whatever the UK military response.

* It will be recalled that we made a similar examination of SNIE 13-3-57 during the offshore island crisis of 1958: Memorandum for the DCI of 7 October 1958, and distributed to the USIB members for information.



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3. During the summer and early fall of 1956, and at about the same time in 1959, Communist pressures on Hong Kong markedly increased for a short time. Similar periods of harassment are likely to recur, but on the basis of available intelligence we consider it unlikely that the Chinese Communists will either attack Hong Kong or attempt a seizure of power from within the Colony in the next few years.

4. If a new estimate were to be undertaken now, the Colony's economic outlook would probably be assessed as somewhat brighter, and the long-range Communist subversive potential as somewhat lower, than expressed in RUC 13-3-57.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES:

WILLIAM KENT
Chairman

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1 - DDP2
1 - DOL
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